

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20

IO-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 /203 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ IAI: JCDEAN: SKG

5/2/73 EXT 22294

APPROVED BY NEA: JJSISCO

NEA/ IAI: HHSTACKHOUSE

NEA: ALATHERTON, JR

AID/ SA/ IR: MNREED

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P 021607 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082562

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

1. ASST SEC SISCO RECALLED TO AMB DINITZ APRIL 30 ACTING SEC RUSH AND SEC SHULTZ FEB DISCUSSIONS WITH FINMIN SAPIR OF OVERALL PROGRAM TO LIMIT USG SPENDING. AS PART OF THIS PROGRAM, SISCO SAID, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO REDUCE SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL FROM 50 MILLION DOLS IN FY 73 TO 25 MILLION DOLS IN FY 74. SISCO EXPECTED AID REQUEST TO BE SENT BY WHITE HOUSE TO CONGRESS SOMETIME THIS WEEK. HE WANTED TO ADVISE DINITZ BEFOREHAND BECAUSE ONCE PRESENTATION WAS MADE INFORMATION WOULD BE PUBLIC. IN MEANTIME, HE ASKED GOI TO TREAT INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL

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2. SISCO POINTED OUT THIS 25 MILLION DOLS REDUCTION REPRESENTED ONLY FIVE PER CENT OF TOTAL ANNUAL US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. DINITZ INTERJECTED THAT IT ALSO REPRESENTED 50 PER CENT OF SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE. SISCO SAID FMS WOULD REMAIN AT 300 MILLION DOLS IN FY 74. HE SAID PL 480 WAS DIFFICULT TO PROJECT AT THIS TIME DUE TO OVERALL WORLD- WIDE DEMANDS- IN RESPONSE DINITZ' S QUERY RE FUNDS FOR JEWISH IMMIGRATION, SISCO NOTED THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD NEVER INITIATED REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. SISCO EXPRESSED HOPE GOI WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS SLIGHT

REDUCTION IN NO WAY REPRESENTED ANY CHANGE IN US POLICY OR US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL' S STRENGTH AND SECURITY. IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS WITH MINISTER SAPIR LAST FEB. DINITZ REPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT HERE DURING SAPIR VISIT, HE DID HAVE IMPRESSION FROM DISCUSSIONS DURING MRS. MEIR' S VISIT THAT USG HAD NOT INTENDED TO MAKE ANY OTHER THAN " MINOR AND INSIGNIFICANT" READJUSTMENTS IN US ASSISTANCE BECAUSE IT REALIZED ISRAEL' S NEED. SISCO EXPLAINED THAT REDUCTION IN SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE WAS SMALL IN RELATIONSHIP TO OVERALL US ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL AND HE HOPED THAT GOI WOULD UNDERSTAND IT AS SUCH.

4. DINITZ SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT TO JERUSALEM AND BE IN TOUCH WITH SISCO. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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